

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Recreational vessels are required to carry specified safety equipment which may vary according to type of propulsion, type of construction, area and time of use, and number of people aboard. Unless otherwise noted, all required equipment must be Coast Guard approved and must be kept in good, serviceable condition, be readily accessible, and be of the proper type and/or size. Recreational vessels may carry extra equipment that is not Coast Guard approved—provided that the minimum requirements for approved equipment are satisfied. For equipment purposes, sailboats, canoes, rowboats, and inflatable rafts equipped with motors are considered to be “motorboats”. Requirements vary considerably for commercial vessels and vessels engaged in racing.

SAILBOATS AND MANUALLY PROPELLED VESSELS

Personal Flotation Devices: Vessels less than 16 feet in length, and all canoes and kayaks, regardless of length, must carry one Type I, II, III, or V Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device for each person on board. They must be readily accessible and of an appropriate size for the intended wearer.

Vessels 16 feet and over, except canoes and kayaks, must have one Type I, II, III, or V Coast Guard-approved wearable device for each person aboard, plus at least one Type IV throwable device. The throwable device must be kept where it is immediately available. Wearable devices must be of an appropriate size for the intended wearer.

Navigation Lights: All vessels are required to display navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and during times of restricted visibility. In inland and international waters, sailing vessels under sail alone shall exhibit navigation lights shown on page 42. The tricolored lantern and the all-round green and red lights should *never* be used together.

A sailing vessel of less than 23 feet (7 meters) in length shall, if practicable, exhibit those lights prescribed, or have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision. A vessel under oars may display those lights prescribed for sailing vessels or have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision.

Sound Signaling Devices: A vessel of less than 39 feet 4 inches (12 meters) is not required to carry a whistle or bell, but must be able to provide some other means of making an efficient sound signal.

Visual Distress Signals (Coastal Waters Only): Boats less than 16 feet, manually propelled craft of any size, sailboats under 26 feet — of completely open construction and not equipped with propulsion machinery, and boats competing in an organized marine parade, regatta, race, or similar event are only required between sunset and sunrise to carry aboard devices that are suitable for night use (see page 43).

MOTORBOATS LESS THAN 16 FEET IN LENGTH

Personal Flotation Device: One Type I, II, III, or V Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device must be carried for each person on board. They must be readily accessible and of an appropriate size for the intended wearer.

Fire Extinguisher: One Type B-I Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher must be carried when no fixed fire extinguishing system is installed in machinery spaces. Extinguishers are not required for outboard motorboats less than 26 feet in length and of open construction. No portable extinguishers are required if an approved, fixed fire extinguishing system is installed in machinery spaces.

Backfire Flame Arrestor: A Coast Guard-approved backfire flame arrestor is required for inboard gasoline motors which are not exposed to the atmosphere above the level of the gunwale.

Muffling System: An effective muffling system is required for the exhaust of each internal combustion engine. Unmodified outboards usually meet legal requirements (see page 36).

Ventilation System: See page 36.

Sound Signaling Devices: A vessel of less than 39 feet 4 inches (12 meters) must be able to provide a means of making an efficient sound signal but is not required to carry a whistle or bell.

Visual Distress Signals (Coastal Waters Only): Boats less than 16 feet of completely open construction and not equipped with propulsion machinery, and boats competing in an organized marine parade, regatta, race, or similar event are only required between sunset and sunrise to carry aboard devices that are suitable for night use (see page 43).

Navigation Lights: Navigation lights must be kept in serviceable condition and displayed between sunset and sunrise and at times of restricted visibility. For motorboats operating during these times, see page 40.

16 FEET TO LESS THAN 26 FEET

Personal Flotation Devices: One Type I, II, III, or V Coast Guard-approved wearable personal flotation device must be carried for each person aboard. They must be readily accessible and of an appropriate size for the intended wearer. In addition, the vessel must carry an approved Type IV throwable device which should be immediately available.

Fire Extinguisher: One Type B-I Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher must be carried when no fixed fire extinguishing system is installed in machinery spaces. Extinguishers are not required for outboard motorboats less than 26 feet in length and of open construction. No portable extinguishers are required if an approved fixed fire extinguishing system is installed in machinery spaces.

Backfire Flame Arrestor: A Coast Guard-approved backfire flame arrestor is required for inboard gasoline motors which are not exposed to the atmosphere above the level of the gunwale.

Muffling System: An effective muffling system is required for the exhaust of each internal combustion engine. Unmodified outboards usually meet legal requirements (see page 36).

Ventilation System: See page 36.

Sound Signaling Devices: A vessel of less than 39 feet 4 inches (12 meters) must be able to provide a means of making an efficient sound signal but is not required to carry a whistle or bell.

Visual Distress Signals (Coastal Waters Only): All boats 16 feet or more in length must carry devices aboard at all times. Boaters must carry: EITHER a) devices that are suitable for day use and devices suitable for night use, OR b) devices that can be used for both day and night use (see page 43).

Navigation Lights: Navigation lights must be kept in serviceable condition and be displayed between sunset and sunrise and at times of restricted visibility. For motorboats operating during these times, see page 40.

MOTORBOATS 26 FEET TO LESS THAN 40 FEET

Personal Flotation Devices: One Type I, II, III, or V Coast Guard-approved wearable personal flotation device must be carried for each person aboard. They must be readily accessible and of an appropriate size for the intended wearer. In addition, the vessel must carry an approved Type IV throwable device which should be immediately available.

Fire Extinguisher: Two Type B-I or one Type B-II Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher must be carried when no fixed fire extinguishing system is installed in machinery spaces. With a fixed system in the machinery space, one Type B-I fire extinguisher must be carried.

Backfire Flame Arrestor: A Coast Guard-approved backfire flame arrestor is required for inboard gasoline motors which are not exposed to the atmosphere above the level of the gunwale.

Muffling System: An effective muffling system is required for the exhaust of each internal combustion engine. Unmodified outboards usually meet legal requirements (see page 36).

Ventilation System: See page 36.

Sound Signaling Devices: A vessel of less than 39 feet 4 inches (12 meters) must be able to provide a means of making an efficient sound signal but is not required to carry a whistle or bell. (See page 31 for vessels over 12 meters.)

Visual Distress Signals (Coastal Waters Only): All boats 16 feet or more in length must carry devices aboard at all times. Boaters must carry: EITHER a) devices that are suitable for day use and devices suitable for night use, OR b) devices that can be used for both day and night use (see page 43).

Navigation Lights: Navigation lights must be kept in serviceable condition and be displayed between sunset and sunrise and at times of restricted visibility. For motorboats operating during these times, see page 40.

MOTORBOATS 40 FEET TO 65 FEET IN LENGTH

Personal Flotation Devices: One Type I, II, III, or V Coast Guard-approved wearable personal flotation device must be carried for each person aboard. They must be readily accessible and of an appropriate size for the intended wearer. In addition, the vessel must carry an approved Type IV throwable device which should be immediately available.

Fire Extinguisher: Three B-I or one B-I and one B-II Type Coast Guard-approved fire extinguishers must be carried when no fixed fire extinguishing system is installed in machinery spaces. With a fixed system in the machinery space, two Type B-I or one Type B-II extinguisher must be carried.

Backfire Flame Arrestor: A Coast Guard-approved backfire flame arrestor is required for inboard gasoline motors which are not exposed to the atmosphere above the level of the gunwale.

Muffling System: An effective muffling system is required for the exhaust of each internal combustion engine. Unmodified outboards usually meet legal requirements (see page 36).

Ventilation System: See page 36.

Sound Signaling Devices: Vessels 39 feet 4 inches (12 meters) or more in length are required to carry a whistle and a bell.

Visual Distress Signals (Coastal Waters Only): All boats 16 feet or more in length must carry devices aboard at all times. Boaters must carry: EITHER a) devices that are suitable for day use and devices suitable for night, OR b) devices that can be used for both day and night use (see page 43).

Navigation Lights: Navigation lights must be kept in serviceable condition and displayed between sunset and sunrise and at times of restricted visibility. For motorboats operating during these times, see page 40.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs)

The minimum requirements are:

- Except canoes and kayaks, all boats 16 feet or more in length: One wearable life jacket (Type I, II, III, or V) for each person on board and one throwable (Type IV) in each boat.
- Canoes and kayaks of any length and all other boats less than 16 feet in length: One I, II, III, or V PFD for each person on board.

Under state law, it is an infraction, punishable by a fine of up to \$250, to operate a vessel that is 26 feet or less in length unless *every child 11 years of age or younger on board is wearing a Type I, II, III, or V Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (life jacket)*. The law does not apply to:

- the operator of a sailboat on which every child under age 12 is restrained by a harness tethered to the sailboat, OR
- the operator of a vessel on which every child under age 12 is in an enclosed cabin.

Inflatable PFDs - The U.S. Coast Guard approved inflatable PFDs in 1996. Only certain brands are U.S. Coast Guard approved, so check the label. While activation upon impact is not a required feature, inflatables must be equipped, at a minimum, with both manual (pull) and oral inflation systems. They must be wearable (Type I, II, III, or V), not throwable-type, PFDs. Inflatables are not recommended for non-swimmers and are not intended for use while water-skiing or on personal watercraft.

California Department of Boating and Waterways



recommends that boaters *always*:

- Check the weather before heading out.
- Wear their life jackets while under way.
- Abstain from alcohol consumption while boating.

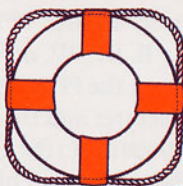
Thank you for keeping California's waterways safe!

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs)



**Off-Shore Life Jacket
(Type I PFD)**

Best in open, rough or remote water where rescue may be slow. Type I's float you best, turn most unconscious wearers face up in the water, and are highly visible.



**Throwable Device
(Type IV PFD)**

Use in calm inland water with heavy boat traffic where help is always nearby. Type IV's do not help unconscious persons, and are not designed for non-swimmers or children. Type IV's are not suitable for many hours in rough water.



**Near-Shore Buoyant Vest
(Type II PFD)**

Good in calm, inland water, or where there is a good chance of fast rescue. Less bulk. Type II's will turn many, but not all, unconscious wearers face up in the water, but Type II's are not suitable for long hours in rough water.



**Hybrid Device
(Type V PFD)**

High flotation when inflated. Good for continuous wear. However, may not adequately float some wearers unless this PFD is partially inflated. Type V's must be used according to approval conditions on label.



Flotation Aid (Type III PFD)

Good in calm, inland water or where there is a good chance of fast rescue. Generally the most comfortable PFD, Type III's are not good for use in rough water and the wearer may have to tilt head back to avoid face-down position in water.



In addition to the above requirements, all boats, powered or nonpowered, must carry at least one wearable Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device for every person aboard. PFDs bearing Coast Guard approval are identified by Types I, II, III, IV, or V. Coast Guard approval is shown by a stencil marking or tag on the PFD. This tag or marking shows the name and address of the manufacturer and the Coast Guard approval number. It also shows the amount of flotation in the device and the PFD Type (I, II, III, IV, V). Failure to have a sufficient number of approved devices aboard constitutes a violation of state and federal law.

California Boating Law requires that all Type I, II, and III PFDs must be readily accessible and all Type IV (throwable) PFDs must be immediately available. All PFDs must be kept in serviceable condition. If the PFD is badly torn, damaged, rotted, punctured or otherwise unserviceable, it no longer meets legal requirements and should be replaced.

Every person on board a personal watercraft (PWC) and any person being towed behind a vessel must wear a Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III, or V life jacket, with exceptions (see "Water Skiing.") Except for these requirements, the requirements for some Type V PFDs, and the requirements for children under age 12, California boating law does not require wearing life jackets while under way. However, it is highly recommended that all persons, especially non-swimmers, wear life jackets. All wearable life jackets must be of suitable size.

Non-approved devices such as ski belts may be carried aboard as excess equipment only. Buoyant cushions should never be worn on the back when in use.

UNDERWATER MANEUVERING DEVICES

Persons using any underwater maneuvering device are exempt from wearing a personal flotation device. An underwater maneuvering device is any towed or self-powered apparatus designed for underwater use that a person can pilot through diving, turning and surfacing maneuvers.

For further details concerning the types and designs of PFDs, send for the free pamphlet titled "Safe Boating Hints For Personal Flotation Devices" from the Department of Boating and Waterways. (See postcard in this booklet.)



CARBON DIOXIDE
EXTINGUISHER



HALON
EXTINGUISHER



DRY CHEMICAL
EXTINGUISHER

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Motorboats are required to carry readily accessible fire extinguishers accepted for marine use by the Coast Guard. The size and number of extinguishers accepted for use on motorboats depend on the size of the boat and whether or not there is a fixed extinguishing system installed aboard your boat. Fire extinguishers are not required for outboard pleasure boats less than 26 feet in length, not carrying passengers for hire, without permanently installed fuel tanks and which do not have spaces in which explosive or flammable gases or vapors can collect. (See Table A for specific requirements.) The minimum size approved for use aboard pleasure boats is the B-I size extinguisher.

All extinguishers must be readily accessible (preferably not stowed next to common fire sources), and they must be kept in a serviceable condition.

REMEMBER, the number required by law is only the minimum. Extra extinguishers provide additional safety.

An extinguisher is suitable for marine use when it bears either:

- A label that includes Coast Guard approval numbers, “Marine Type USCG,” or both markings.
- A label that states the extinguisher is listed with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and is suitable for marine use. It must be of the type and size described in Table B. UL-listed extinguishers must bear a UL rating of 5-B:C or higher. (All recently manufactured UL marine-type extinguishers will bear both the UL and Coast Guard label markings.)

All carbon tetrachloride extinguishers and others of the TOXIC vaporizing-liquid type, such as chlorobromomethane, are not approved and are not accepted as required fire extinguishers on any motorboats.

For further details concerning the types and designs for approved fire extinguishers, send for the free pamphlet titled “Safe Boating Hints for Fire Extinguishers” from the Department of Boating and Waterways. (See postcard in this booklet.)

TABLE A - FIRE EXTINGUISHER REQUIREMENTS

Boat Length	Without fixed extinguishing system in machinery space	With fixed extinguishing system in machinery space
Less than 26 ft.	1 B-I	None
26 ft. to under 40 ft.	2 B-I or 1 B-II	1 B-I
40 ft. to 65 ft.	3 B-I or 1 B-II and 1 B-I	2 B-I or 1 B-II

TABLE B - FIRE EXTINGUISHER CHARACTERISTICS

UL Listed extinguishers of the type and weight shown below may be selected to meet the type and size requirements for the corresponding Coast Guard classification (see Table A). For example, if a Coast Guard Type B, Size II extinguisher is required, a 10 lb. dry chemical extinguisher would be one of the equivalents. The following specifies only the minimum net agent weight. A larger extinguisher would be acceptable.

Coast Guard Classes	UL -Listed Equivalent	Dry Chemical lb.	Carbon Dioxide lb.	Halon 1211 / 1301 lb.
B-I	5-B:C	2	4	2 1/2
B-II	0-B:C	10	15	10

MUFFLING SYSTEMS

Any motorboat operated on the inland waters of this state must be muffled or otherwise prevented from exceeding the following noise levels when recorded at a distance of 50 feet:

- 82 dB (A) for engines manufactured on or after January 1, 1978.
- 84 dB (A) for engines manufactured on or after January 1, 1976 and before January 1, 1978.
- 86 dB (A) for engines manufactured before January 1, 1976.

Authorities generally agree that unbaffled exhaust pipes (stacks) and most water-injected pipes do not meet any of the above noise level requirements.

VENTILATION SYSTEMS

All motorboats or motor vessels, except open boats, made after 1940 and using gasoline as a fuel must have at least two ventilator ducts fitted with cowls or their equivalent for the efficient removal of explosive or flammable gases from the bilges of every engine and fuel tank compartment. If engine and fuel tank compartments are closed and separated, two such ventilation systems are required.

There must be at least one exhaust duct installed so as to extend from the open atmosphere to the lower portion of the bilge and at least one intake duct installed so as to extend to a point at least midway to the bilge or at least below the level of the carburetor air intake. The cowls must be located and trimmed for maximum effectiveness so as to prevent displaced fumes from being recirculated.

Boats built after July 31, 1980 that have a gasoline engine for electrical generation, mechanical power, or propulsion must be equipped with an operable ventilation system. A compartment containing a permanently installed gasoline engine must either be open to the atmosphere or ventilated by an exhaust blower system. The intake duct for an exhaust blower must be in the lower one-third of the compartment and above the normal level of accumulated bilge water. A combination of more than one exhaust blower may be used to meet specified requirements.

Boats equipped with outboard motors or inboard motors, not enclosed and of “open” construction, are exempt from ventilation requirements.

BACKFIRE FLAME CONTROL DEVICES

Backfire flame control devices are designed to prevent open flame from leaving the carburetion system in the event of a backfire.

Vessels equipped with gasoline engines, except outboard motors, must have a backfire flame control device installed on the engine. These can be either:

- a Coast Guard-approved backfire flame arrestor, suitably secured to the air intake with flame-tight connection,
- a backfire flame arrestor marked “SAEJ-1928” or “UL 1111”, and suitably secured to the air intake with a flame-tight connection,
- an approved engine air and fuel induction system which provides adequate protection from propagation of backfire flame to the atmosphere, equivalent to that provided by an acceptable backfire flame arrestor, or
- a flame-tight metallic carburetor air intake attachment, located or positioned so backfire flames would be dispersed to the atmosphere outside the vessel. This latter device must be acceptable to the Coast Guard and be such that the flames will not endanger the vessel, persons on board, or nearby vessels and structures.

MARINE SANITATION DEVICES

Federal law forbids the dumping of sewage, treated or untreated, or any waste derived from sewage, into the lakes, reservoirs, or fresh water impoundments of this state.

Federal regulations and equipment standards established jointly by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Coast Guard govern the use of marine sanitation devices (MSDs).

State law provides that it is a misdemeanor to disconnect, bypass, or operate an MSD so as to discharge sewage into the waters of this state, unless expressly authorized or permitted by law. In designated no-discharge areas, a) no person shall disconnect, bypass, or operate an MSD so as to potentially discharge sewage, and b) no person shall occupy or operate a vessel in which an MSD is installed unless the MSD is properly secured.

Effective January 1, 2003, a state or local peace officer who reasonably suspects that a vessel is discharging sewage in an area where the discharge is prohibited may board that vessel, if the owner or operator is aboard, for the purpose of inspecting the marine sanitation device for proper operation and placing a dye tablet in the holding tank.

OILY WASTE DISCHARGE PLACARD

Federal law requires all boats 26 feet or longer to display an Oily Waste Discharge Placard in the engine compartment or near the fuel tank. For more information, call the U.S. Coast Guard toll-free boating safety information line, (800) 368-5647.

MARINE POLLUTION PLACARD

Federal law now requires all boats 26 feet or more in length, when operating in waters under federal jurisdiction, to display an informational placard on the subject of the federal marine pollution prevention laws. Under the Marine Pollution (MARPOL) International Convention To Prevent Pollution From Ships, the discharge into the navigable waters of the U.S. of the following is prohibited:

- plastic, paper, rags, glass, metal, crockery, dunnage, or food in U.S. lakes, rivers, bays, sounds, and up to 3 miles from shore.
- any plastic, or any of the above items if not ground to less than an inch in size, between 3 and 12 miles from shore.
- plastic or dunnage 12 to 25 miles from shore.
- plastic outside 25 miles from shore.

The required placard details these prohibitions. The placard must be displayed in a prominent location where the crew and passengers can read it, must be at least 9 inches wide by 4 inches high, and must be made of durable material bearing letters at least 1/8 inch high. The placards can be purchased at marine supply dealers, or a free placard can be obtained by writing to the Department of Boating and Waterways, or by calling tollfree (888) 326-2822.

MARINE POLLUTION (MARPOL) REGULATIONS

LAKES, RIVERS, BAYS, SOUNDS AND 3 MILES FROM SHORE



NOT LEGAL

Plastic and any garbage other than Graywater or Dishwater

LEGAL

Graywater (drainage from shower, laundry, bath and wash basin drains), Dishwater (liquid drainage from manual or automatic washing of cooking utensils)



3 TO 12 MILES FROM SHORE



NOT LEGAL

Plastic and if 1 square inch or larger: Food

Waste, Paper, Rags, Glass, Crockery, Metal, Dunnage (lining & packing materials that float)

LEGAL

Graywater, Dishwater, if ground to pieces smaller than 1 sq. inch: Food Waste, Paper, Rags, Glass, Crockery, Metal



12 TO 25 MILES FROM SHORE



NOT LEGAL

Plastic and Dunnage (lining & packing materials that float)

LEGAL

Graywater, Dishwater, Food Waste, Paper, Rags, Glass, Crockery, Metal



OUTSIDE 25 MILES FROM SHORE



NOT LEGAL

Plastic

LEGAL

Graywater, Dishwater, Food Waste, Crockery, Metal, Dunnage (lining & packing materials that float)

WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

All U.S. vessels 40 feet or more in length and equipped with a galley and berthing must, in addition, carry a Waste Management Plan, if the vessel operates beyond 3 miles from shore. The Waste Management Plan must be in writing, must designate the person who is in charge of carrying out the plan, and must describe procedures for collecting, processing, storing and properly disposing of garbage in keeping with the prohibitions described above.

RUNNING LIGHTS - INLAND AND INTERNATIONAL

Operating a boat at night without lights is not only dangerous, it is against the law. Running lights make it possible for boat operators to properly interpret and react to the movements of other boats in darkness. *If a boat is used exclusively in the daylight hours, and not during periods of restricted visibility, running lights are not required.*

All vessels must show required running lights between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility. Light requirements vary, based on vessel length and propulsion type. In most cases, requirements for a particular vessel are the same under both inland and international rules.

Power-Driven Vessels: A recreational powerboat under way is required to display a masthead light forward, red and green sidelights and a sternlight, as indicated in Figure 1. A recreational powerboat under 39 feet 4 inches (12 meters) may instead display a 360° all-round sternlight and combination red and green sidelights (Figure 2).

Sailing Vessels and Vessels Under Oar: A sailing vessel operating under power of sail only must exhibit sidelights and a sternlight (Figure 3). A sailing vessel of less than 23 feet (7 meters) in length must, if practicable, exhibit sidelights and a sternlight or a lighted lantern showing a white light which must be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision (Figure 4). *A sailing vessel operating under machinery power only, or under power and sails, is considered a power-driven vessel, and must display the proper lights for a powerboat (Figure 5).*

A vessel under oars may: a) display those lights prescribed for sailing vessels, or b) have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light which must be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision (Figure 6).

Boaters operating at night should be aware that there are other possible combinations of lights; the ones presented above are the most common.

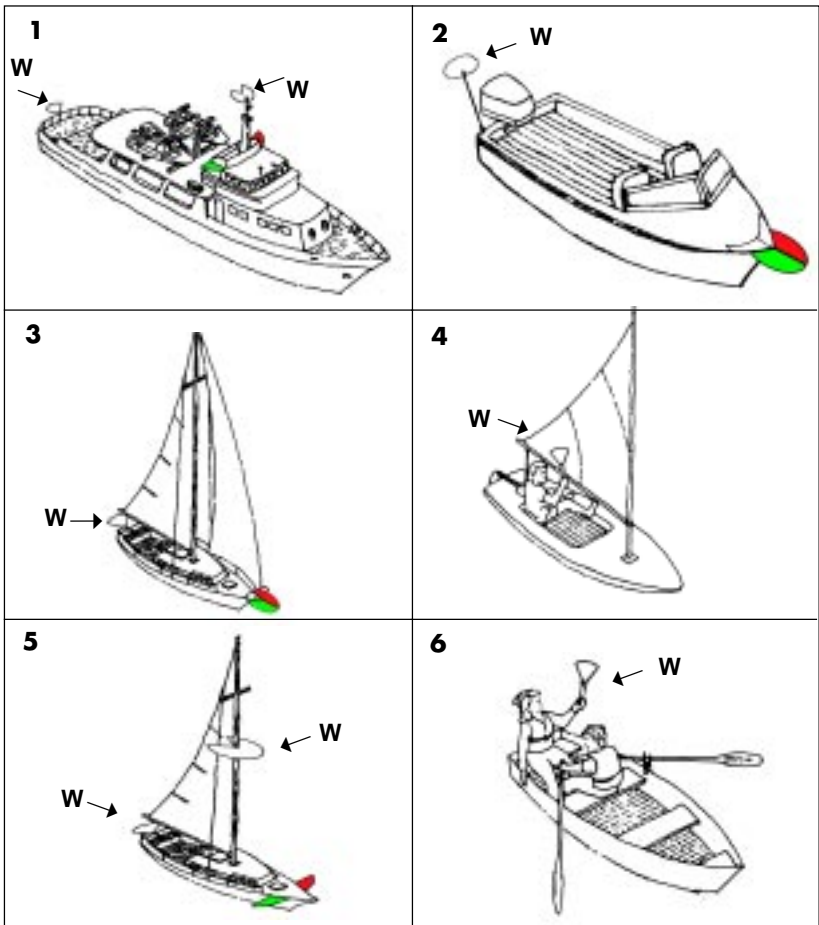


STORM DRAINS LEAD TO THE OCEAN
HELP KEEP OUR WATERS CLEAN

RECYCLE USED MOTOR OIL

FOR COLLECTION CENTER LOCATIONS CALL
1-800-CLEANUP
www.1800cleanup.org





W=White

ANCHOR LIGHTS

An anchor light is an all-round white light exhibited where it can best be seen and is visible for two miles.

Power-driven vessels and sailing vessels at anchor must display anchor lights. Exceptions are: a) vessels less than 23 feet (7 meters) in length are not required to display anchor lights unless anchored in or near a narrow channel, fairway or anchorage, or where other vessels normally navigate, and b) vessels less than 65 feet 7 inches (20 meters) in inland waters when at anchor in a special anchorage area designated by the Secretary of Transportation are not required to exhibit an anchor light.

VISUAL DISTRESS-SIGNALING DEVICES

Vessels operating on coastal waters must carry the required number of approved visual distress-signaling devices selected from Table C.

Coastal waters include: a) territorial seas and b) those waters directly connected to the territorial seas (bays, sounds, harbors, rivers, inlets, etc.) where any entrance exceeds 2 nautical miles between opposite shorelines to the first point where the largest distance between shorelines narrows to two miles. The carriage requirements for vessels operating on coastal waters are:

- 1. All boats 16 feet or more in length must carry devices aboard at all times. Boaters must carry: EITHER a) devices that are suitable for day use and devices suitable for night use OR b) devices that can be used for both day and night use.
- 2. Boats less than 16 feet; manually propelled craft of any size; sailboats under 26 feet of completely open construction and not equipped with propulsion machinery; and boats competing in any organized marine parade, regatta, race, or similar event are only required between sunset and sunrise to carry aboard devices that are suitable for night use.

TABLE C - VISUAL DISTRESS REQUIREMENTS				
Boaters may select a group or any combination as long as it meets the specific requirement for their boat.				
Number on Device	Device Description	Accepted use for	Number required to be carried	
160.021	Hand red flare, distress signals	Day and night ¹	3	
160.022	Floating orange smoke distress signals	Day only	3	
160.024	Pistol-projected parachute red flare distress signals	Day and night ²	3	
160.036	Hand-held rocket-propelled parachute red	Day and night	3	
160.037	Hand-held orange smoke distress signals	Day only	3	
160.057	Floating orange smoke distress signals	Day only	3	
160.066	Distress signal for boats, red aerial pyrotechnic flare	Day and night ³	3	
160.072	Distress signal for boats, orange flag	Day only	1	
160.013	Electric distress light for boat	Night only	1	
¹ These signals must have a date of manufacture of October 1, 1980 or later to be acceptable.				
² These signals require use in combination with a suitable launching device approved under 46 CFR 160.028.				
³ These devices may be either self-contained or pistol launched, and either meteor or parachute assisted type. Some of these signals may require use in combination with a suitable launching device approved under 46 CFR 160.028.				

All visual distress-signaling devices must be Coast Guard-approved, be readily accessible, and in serviceable condition. Devices carried aboard beyond the date stamped on each device will not meet legal minimum requirements.

RECOGNIZED DISTRESS SIGNALS

The following are some of the signals that are recognized as indicating distress and need of assistance. On coastal waters, boaters must carry Coast Guard-approved visual distress-signaling devices (see page 39).



RED STAR SHELLS



FOG HORN
CONTINUES
SOUNDING



WHITE LIGHT
FLASHING
(inland waters only)



GUN FIRED AT
INTERVALS
OF 1 MIN.



ORANGE
BACKGROUND
BLACK BALL
& SQUARE



SOS

SOS



MAY DAY
BY RADIO



PARACHUTE
RED FLARE



DYE
MARKER
(any color)



CODE FLAGS
NOVEMBER
CHARLIE



SQUARE FLAG
AND BALL



WAVE ARMS



RADIO-
TELEGRAPH
ALARM



RADIO-
TELEPHONE
ALARM



POSITION
INDICATING
RADIO BEACON



SMOKE